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BELL BOYD & LOYD LLC

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Sakuma, K., et al.

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Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This Response is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated December 13, 2002. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the patent application.

This Response is submitted in the revised format now permitted for Office Action responses.

Referring to the telephone conversation with the Examiner on March 10, 2003, Applicants' representative would like to discuss any issues with this application with the Examiner to place the application in condition for allowance.